

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 9-17, 22, 28 and 32-36 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 18, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shakuda (US 5,825,052). Claims 6 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shakuda.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the application, claims 9, 12, 13, 22, 28 and 32-36 have been amended so as to place them into independent form. Further, claims 1-8, 18-21, 23-27, 29-31 and 37-74 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowable claims remain pending in the application.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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